

# DU PONT MILL BLAST IS FELT IN 4 STATES

## 400,000 Pounds of Powder Wreck Plant at Haskell, N. J.

### TWO MEN DIE; 300 IN PERIL

#### Twelve Buildings Destroyed—Fire Follows Explosion

New York City was shaken again last night by the roar of an exploding New Jersey munition plant—the second visitation of its kind in thirty-six hours—and looking westward saw a red glare above the Palisades which told that 400,000 pounds of powder in the du Pont plant at Haskell, N. J., had gone up in flame.

Two men at least died in the great blast that started roaring skyward shortly after 9:30; twelve buildings of the company were destroyed; towns for miles around were wracked and battered by the concussion, and four states—New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts—felt the shock.

#### Series of Explosions

How many men were injured is not known. Three hundred were working in the danger zone when the explosion occurred. There was no one mighty crash. There were a series of blasts, strong into a tremendous roar that lasted for several minutes, while flames leaped from one building to another as a spark runs through a gigantic pack of fireworks.

The first clap came at 9:30. In the few minutes following eleven other buildings and magazines went up in a rapid succession that their roar was blended into one great thunder and the country for miles around was brightened by the glow of the burning powder.

When the first crash came several hundred employees turned from their work and stampeded like cattle for the gate. This is on the Greenwood Lake Turnpike and is the only entrance to the plant. A hundred yards inside the company's property is the guardhouse, in which a score of men are always told on reserve.

These rushed out as the terror-stricken mob approached. A sharp light followed, in which the frightened employees were beaten back and kept inside the du Pont property until the next shift came to work.

#### Blasted Out of Existence

Use building of the plant is known as the "barrel mixing house." It is here that the raw powder is blended with graphite, which glazes it and reduces friction. The machinery by which this perilous work is accomplished is barrel-shaped and is revolved by electricity. Two men tend it. These and the building were blasted out of existence. An electric spark from the machinery is supposed to have caused the trouble.

On one side of the hill which follows the Wanaque River northward are the offices and buildings of the company, where the safer processes of manufacture are performed. On the other side, with a rampart of solid rock separating them from Haskell, are the powder magazines and the isolated houses, where the more perilous processes are performed.

When the barrel mixing house went skyward on a shaft of flame the shock set off the adjoining "drying house," where the explosives are relieved of superfluous moisture. From then on for five minutes there was one great continuous roar, as ton after ton of powder blew up.

Near the drying house was a magazine, in which three tons of "pyro," an explosive being manufactured for the United States government, was stored. This went next, and the mighty concussion reached across the river and set off four magazines, each containing from three to four tons of powder, another high explosive. Other smaller buildings joined in the tremendous blast.

#### 300 in Danger Zone

There were more than 300 men in the danger zone when the explosion occurred. But officials of the plant insist that only a few of the men in the barrel mixing house—were missing, and that to one was seriously hurt. One Rostrick, a guard, was cut about the head and ribs and taken to the plant hospital, but James Lynch, the general manager, said that no one else was injured to an equal extent. Mr. Lynch does not even admit that the two former occupants of the barrel house were killed.

The shock of the explosion jarred the machine shop so severely that the shafting on the ceiling, to which belts were attached, came down. Several men were in the building at the time. It is feared that any of them were injured. Later the structure caught fire and burned.

Immediately after the long rolling explosion had died away, the company's fighting apparatus was ordered out, but it was decided that any attempt to extinguish the flaming buildings would be too dangerous. They were allowed to burn themselves out.

No estimate was available of the number of men at work when the disaster occurred, but as soon as the ter-

# Driver Catapulted Into River By Runaway on Bridge

## Does Somersault Through Air from Williamsburg Span—Rescued by Tug Crew; Victims Clothes Are Torn Off by Impact with Water—Expected to Live

A runaway team came thundering down the Manhattan incline of the Williamsburg Bridge yesterday afternoon. Behind it a truck loaded with window sashes lurched and bounded, but the high driver's seat was empty and the reins were dragging at the horses' heels.

Motorcycle Patrolman Battle leaped from his machine as he saw the team approaching, ran out into the middle of the north roadway and grasped their bridles as they bore down upon him. He pulled the horses to a standstill and waited for the driver to appear. After a few minutes he remounted his machine and rode slowly back across the bridge, looking for the man. Apparently, he had vanished.

While Battle was searching the bridge the crew of the tug James L. Morgan was pulling George Kitzer, of 553 Metropolitan Avenue, Williamsburg, from the river. He had been flung off of his seat when the team bolted and had dropped 155 feet to the water.

Kitzer, who is an employee of the Louis Bossert Lumber Company, Grand Street and Newtown Creek, started across to New York with a load of window sashes yesterday afternoon. He had passed the Brooklyn tower and was nearing the center of the bridge when his horses became frightened. A six-foot guard rail of wrought iron borders the roadway, but the truck

# BERNSTORFF OUSTS BOPP

## Vice-Consul Von Schack Also Relieved Following Plot Conviction

Washington, Jan. 12.—Count von Bernstorff to-day informed the State Department in a note that he had relieved from duty Franz Bopp and E. H. von Schack, respectively consul general and vice consul at San Francisco, recently convicted of violating the neutrality of the United States by conspiring to destroy munitions consigned to the Entente Allies.

# HUBBY, ALLOWED \$1.50 A WEEK FOR 12 YEARS, REBELS

## Mother-in-Law Told Him to Clean House on Holiday—Court Chides Wife

For twelve years Felix Graffe, of 414 East Sixty-fourth Street, turned his pay envelope over to his wife every Saturday night. For twelve years she gave him \$1.50 of his salary to pay for his carfare and lunches during the week. Each morning Felix walked four miles to save an extra nickel carfare. Each night he walked four miles to save another nickel on his way home. Every nickel he saved he gave to his wife. Yesterday she had him arraigned in the Domestic Relations Court on a charge of non-support.

"Why, I was very generous with him, your honor," she told Magistrate Cornell. "Why shouldn't he give me his pay envelope? It's every married man's duty."

It wasn't the pay envelope or his lack of funds that finally caused Felix to rebel last Christmas Day and leave his wife. The final straw that broke his back was mother-in-law.

Mrs. Graffe's mother has lived with them for years. Felix told the magistrate, and he supported her, as well as his wife, uncomplainingly. But Christmas Day Felix wanted to rest. Mother-in-law was in charge of the house. She ordered Felix to sweep the floors, wash the dishes, scrub the kitchen, empty the ashes, and when he got through that, to prepare the Christmas dinner. Felix rebelled and walked out.

"You have one husband in ten thousand," Magistrate Cornell told Mrs. Graffe. "He doesn't drink, smoke, chew or gamble. He has given you all his money and you refused to raise his allowance from \$1.50 to \$2 a week, when he asked it as a New Year's gift. He, and not you, is legally entitled to be boss of the household. So I advise you to take him back and be proud of him."

Felix agreed to go back on one condition—the departure of mother-in-law. Mrs. Graffe, who is large, tucked the arm of Felix, who is small, under one of hers; they left the courtroom together and the case was dismissed.

# TWO ARMY AVIATORS LOST IN ARID LOWER CALIFORNIA

## They Carried Neither Food Nor Water, as They Planned Short Flight

Calexico, Cal., Jan. 12.—Mounted Mexican soldiers who searched for two American army aviators supposed to be lost in Lower California, returned to-day with reports that no trace of the men had been found. United States customs agents also made the same report.

Lieutenant Colonel H. G. Bishop and Lieutenant W. A. Robertson, Jr., left the North Island aviation station, near San Diego, Cal., Wednesday morning in an attempt to make a non-stop flight to Calexico. They carried neither food nor water, expecting to arrive here within a few hours. Yesterday ranchmen south of the international boundary reported that Wednesday afternoon they had sighted an airplane headed in a southerly direction.

# 'SPREAD EAGLE' CHARGE HOLDS 3 OFFICERS

## Discharge Denied, Col. Wingate Ordered to Fort Hamilton

### FIVE PRIVATES ARE UNDER GUARD

#### Men Tied to Wheel in 2d Artillery Armory, They Say

Discharge papers were refused last night to Colonel George A. Wingate, in command of the 2d Field Artillery; Captain Wilbur T. Wright, and Lieutenant Frank A. Spencer, both of Battery E, when the regiment was mustered out. The three officers were ordered to Fort Hamilton, pending full investigation of the "spread-eagle" of five privates last Tuesday in the regimental armory in the Bronx.

The five privates who underwent the unusual form of punishment, also were held in the government service. They were taken to Fort Hamilton under guard and will remain there as prisoners till the case against their officers is cleared up. The privates are Max Kellerman, of Battery B, and Ralph Pingree, Earl Pingree, Elmer St. George and James J. Foley, all of Battery E.

Lieutenant Spencer is the man on whom the brunt of the charges in connection with the "spread-eagle" punishment will fall. He was officer of the day in the Bronx armory last Tuesday and ordered the five privates, all prisoners, to perform police duty in the armory ring.

# HIRAM JOHNSON'S DEATH PLOTTED

## Alex. Berkman and Seven Others Accused in California Murder Trial

San Francisco, Jan. 12.—Alexander Berkman, editor of "The Blast," an anarchist publication, and seven others prominent in labor circles here to-day were charged with having directed a conspiracy to assassinate Senator-elect Hiram W. Johnson, "blow up the state" and to overthrow the government.

Those alleged to be associated with Berkman include Miss M. E. Fitzgerald, his secretary; Robert Minor, treasurer of the International Workers' Defense League; Thomas J. Mooney, labor organizer, and four others who are now on trial with Mooney for alleged murder in connection with the bomb explosion that killed participants in the preparedness parade here last July.

The charges were made by Assistant District Attorney Edward A. Cunha during the Mooney trial. He declared that proof of his charges was contained in letters and papers seized in a recent raid on the offices of "The Blast."

At the Mooney trial, Miss Eleanor Fitzgerald, who is now on trial with Mooney for alleged murder in connection with the bomb explosion and as the leaders of the alleged conspiracy.

Charles M. Fickert charged that Mooney wrote an article in an industrial workers' of the world publication in Cleveland, Ohio, in October, 1914, in which Mooney declared that unless Governor Johnson pardoned two men convicted as the result of the killing of a District Attorney of Sutter County, Cal., in 1914, "he would only have himself to blame if he got hurt."

Mooney's trial had been interrupted and Judge Griffin was sitting as a magistrate on the question of permitting the defense to see the Berkman letters when Cunha made his charges. Last week W. Bourke Cockran, of New York, chief counsel for Mooney, succeeded in having the court impound the letters after several had been published in newspapers. Miss Eleanor Fitzgerald, as the editor of Berkman's paper, "The Blast," was testifying how the District Attorney's agents injured her when they raided "The Blast" two weeks ago and took the correspondence of Governor Johnson, when informed of Assistant District Attorney Cunha's revelations of an alleged plot to assassinate him, said:

"Threats of that kind have been so many and so varied as to make it impossible for me to remember them all. I am sure that I've learned wholly to disregard them."

The San Francisco police involved Mrs. J. Sergeant, wealthy society woman, friend of the labor unions, and wife of the former Public Service Commissioner of this city, in the Mooney case early this morning, when they accused her of giving Alexander Berkman money toward the defense of Mooney.

Mrs. Cram promptly admitted having given \$750 to Berkman, but denied that this was for the defense of Mooney. That she had been instrumental in getting W. Bourke Cockran to go to San Francisco for Mooney's defense she also admitted, but she added that she was convinced Mooney's innocence and sued gone without fee.

The accusation of the police of San Francisco was based on two letters which they said they found in the offices of "The Blast," one of which was addressed to Mrs. Cram from Berkman.

Mrs. Cram has been active in labor circles of this city and elsewhere for several years, and belongs to several unions. She could not be reached last night.

# HOPE FOR ARNOLD DALY

## Actor Is Fighting Death with Vitality That Amazes Physicians

With a vitality that is amazing the attending physicians, Arnold Daly, the actor, who was operated on several days ago at Roosevelt Hospital, is waging what the doctors now believe to be a successful fight for life.

After the operation the surgeons said that there was little chance for recovery. Yesterday and last night, however, he reacted comfortably, and at midnight it was said he had more than an even chance.

# Allies' Rebuff May Check Peace Moves by President; British Raise \$500,000,000

## "War to Victory" Loan Proves Success in First Four Hours

### BIG COMPANIES GIVE PLEDGES

#### Workers Clamor for Prospectuses at Bank Annex

NEW CALL FOR TROOPS ITALY'S "PEACE" ANSWER

Rome, Jan. 12.—In commenting on the Entente peace reply the "Popolo Romano" says:

"The call to the colors of more troops positively shows the decision reached in the recent Allied War Council held here for a more vigorous prosecution of the war."

This is the first hint that has passed the censor regarding a new call of troops by Italy.

# PASTOR SEIZED AS DRUG AGENT

## Brooklyn Clergyman, 71, Watched for Six Months by Police

The Rev. William N. Ritchie, seventy-one years old, member of the Brooklyn Presbytery, chaplain of U. S. Grant Post, G. A. R., and volunteer redeemer of drug addicts, was arrested yesterday in his brownstone home at 105 St. James Place, Brooklyn, and held in \$500 for examination on a charge of selling morphine. His son supplied cash bail for him in the Gates Avenue police court, where the spare, erect figure of the gray-haired clergyman stood out among the sullen delinquents in line.

"My arrest is a mistake," said Mr. Ritchie after he had returned to his home. "I know that the police have been after me for a long time, but they have made a mistake. Physicians all over the country send drug victims to me, and I have cured more than 600. I have worked throughout in conjunction with physicians of standing, and all prescriptions used in my work have been made out by them."

The clergyman refused to name the physicians who had been associated with him in reclaiming drug victims or to describe the method of treating addicts. It is said that a former pastor of a Fifth Avenue church, in Manhattan, had at one time been greatly interested in the work, and Mr. Ritchie's neighbors and friends in the Brooklyn Presbytery were certain that whatever his methods might be he had undertaken the service in sincerity and with the best of motives.

Home Had Been Watched

Detectives declared that they had watched the clergyman's house for six months, taking especial note of visitors, and that in that period he had disposed of more than \$8,000 worth of morphine. Detective Greer, who signed the complaint, said that he went to Mr. Ritchie's home on Thursday and told the clergyman that he had been sent by "friends in New York." On demanding morphine, said Greer, Mr. Ritchie gave him a vial, for which he paid two marked \$1 bills.

"In case you meet a cop," Greer said, the clergyman told him, "smash the bottle on the ground."

Analysis of the contents of the bottle showed, Greer said, that it contained fifty-four grains of morphine.

Mr. Ritchie's account of the detective's visit varied from Greer's. He made no mention of the warning concerning a "cop," and declared that before Greer called on him the detective had with the physician associated with Mr. Ritchie in the redemption of addicts, and had announced himself as a drug fiend. On meeting the clergyman, Greer had told him that the physician was away and that he must have morphine or go crazy.

The arrest was made by Detectives Moog and Higgins late yesterday afternoon after the completion of the analysis. Mr. Ritchie was accompanied when he appeared before Magistrate Folwell by his son, who lives with him, and an attorney.

# SMUGGLERS AID SCORES TO FLEE FROM BELGIUM

## Deportations Start Exodus Over Dutch Border to Join King Albert's Army

London, Jan. 12.—The Belgian "underground railway" is working so well and the deportations from Belgium have caused so much alarm that efforts to cross the border into Holland are now more numerous than at any previous time since the Germans occupied the country.

Dutch smugglers on both sides of the line are reaping a rich harvest. They have the assistance of Belgian poachers, who in peace times are a terror to the local authorities, but who now daily risk their lives without pay in their efforts to assist their countrymen across the border.

The deadly charged barbed wire at the frontier accounts for many victims, but so many succeed in getting through that their number forms a useful addition to the Belgian army. Among those who have escaped are a number of men with families, who had no intention of attempting to leave the country until they were threatened with deportation.

Belgians who recently escaped on canal tugs and made their way to London, where they enrolled in the Belgian army, report that there is little difficulty in reaching the Dutch border, even from points as far distant as the French frontier. Once on the Dutch border, their real troubles begin, and to cross the frontier into Holland it is necessary to use any means at hand, even to the killing of sentries.

According to the information received here, ninety men of military age on two canal tugs succeeded in making their way down the Meuse and across the border. In one case, the men report that they bribed the German guard while the men on the other tug fought their way through patrols, rammed and broke the last lock and floated across the barbed wire fence on the flood waters, grounding on a shoal within Dutch territory.

# KAISER'S POLISH ARMY IS NOW 700 STRONG

## Information of Germany's Attempt to Raise a Polish Volunteer Army Proves it a Complete Fiasco

From the day of the proclamation of the Kingdom of Poland to December 31, the total enlisted was 1,800. Eleven hundred proved medically unfit on examination. Many partly crippled men enlisted for the sake of the pay, knowing that their health precluded them from real service.

The Germans boasted of being able to have 700,000 Poles under arms by spring. They have 700 now.